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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN RP-10

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-18 OIC-02 CIAE-00
EB-08 ICA-15 DCDE-00 IO-18 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSAE-00
HA-06 TRSE-00 PH-09 PA-02 OND-01 AS-01 SR-04
SPRS-02 /129 R

DRAFTED BY RP/ENE:JHOGANSON:LM
APPROVED BY RP/ENE:JHOGANSON
NEA/PAS:DMURPHY
RP/OPB:FHOSS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

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E.O. 12065: M/A

TAGS: SREF, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF

1. REPROGRAMMING FOR ADDITIONAL AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF
FUNDING HAS BECOME EFFECTIVE. DEPARTMENT ISSUING THE
FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE JULY 9:

QUOTE: U.S. PLEDGES MORE AID FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF:
THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES
HAS RESPONDED TO APPEALS FROM INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGAN-
IZATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WITH AN ADDITIONAL
COMMITMENT OF 921 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO
AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN HAVE GENEROUSLY
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RECEIVED AND ASSISTED THE AFGHANS. AN ONGOING INTERNATIONAL

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RELIEF PROGRAM SUPPORTS PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS IN AIDING THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING REFUGEE POPULATION, NOW ESTIMATED TO NUMBER ABOUT 2 MILLION AFGHANS.

TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AFGHAN RELIEF IN FISCAL YEAR 1981 ARE EXPECTED TO REACH \$93 MILLION. IN FY 1980 THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GAVE \$44 MILLION TO ASSIST AFGHAN REFUGEES.

THIS NEW PLEDGE CONSISTS OF \$12 MILLION FOR THE PROGRAMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), \$1 MILLION FOR THE MEDICAL PROGRAMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), AND \$8 MILLION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES TO REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN'S NORTHWEST FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN PROVINCES.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AFGHAN REFUGEES FLED THEIR HOMELAND SHORTLY AFTER THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN IN DECEMBER 1979. CONTINUED PERSECUTION AND FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE THE INVASION HAVE FORCED ADDITIONAL TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AFGHANS TO SEEK REFUGE IN PAKISTAN EACH MONTH. MOST OF THE REFUGEES ARRIVE DESTITUTE AND IN POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION, AFTER LONG FLIGHTS ON FOOT THROUGH MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN. THEY ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ESSENTIALS OF SURVIVAL--FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL CARE.

THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION REFLECTS OUR HISTORIC TRADITION OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION AND AGGRESSION AND OUR CONCERN FOR THE STRAINS THAT REFUGEE POPULATIONS PLACE ON
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THE SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE PAKISTAN. END QUOTE.

2. PRESS RELEASE DOES NOT REFER TO \$4 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCY ACTIVITIES SINCE WE DO NOT YET HAVE PROPOSALS FOR USE OF THOSE FUNDS, NOR DOES IT REFER TO AVAILABILITY OF USG-OWNED RUPEES SINCE GOP CONCURRENCE TO THEIR USE IS STILL PENDING. WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE EARLY GOP APPROVAL ON RUPEES SO THAT WE COULD PROCEED WITH FURTHER GRANT TO UNHCR AND MOVE AHEAD ON LICROSS AND

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OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCY PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED.

3. USE OF BILATERAL FUNDS FOR TRUCK PURCHASE IS NOW UNDERGOING FINAL REVIEW HERE AND WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED ON DEVELOPMENTS.

4. FOR GENEVA: FORMAL PLEDGE LETTER TO ICRC AND UNHCR CANNOT BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME. TEXT OF PLEDGE LETTERS AND FISCAL DATA WILL FOLLOW IN SEVEN TO TEN DAYS FOLLOWING APPORTIONMENT AND ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS. HAIG

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